Import of sugar

571. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exempted imported sugar from regulatory measures relating to stock holding limits and turnover period, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether the consumers will be benefited with these measures;

(d) if so, in what respect;

(e) whether import of sugar has been authorised to some agencies of the country;

(f) if so, the total quantity imported by each such agency by 15th July, 1994 and names of countries of import;

(g) whether Government have any programme to boost production of sugar in the country to minimise the import; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI : (a) and (b) The Government have exempted imported sugar from stock holding limits and from restrictions on turn-over period in order to ensure its smooth movement and adequate availabilty to the consumers at a reasonable price.

(c) and (d) The arrival of imported sugar in the open market has had a salutary effect on the sugar prices which are showing a declining trend.

(e) and (f) The import of sugar has been allowed under open General licence (OGL). As such, imports are being undertaken by various private parties. In addition, public sector undertakings, like STC/MMTC, are also importing sugar in order to augment the supply to the Public Distribution System.

As on 15-7-1994, about 5.68 lakh tonnes of sugar has been imported (arrived in India) by private parties. Besides this, 0.42 lakh tonnes of sugar imported by STC has also arrived in India by the aforesaid date. The country of origin of sugar imported by various private parties is not available. The origin of the aforesaid quantity of sugar imported by STC is as under:

S.No.	Vessel's Name	Country of origin
1.	Sarney	Thailand
2.	Innovator	Holland
3.	Dimitry	U.K.

(g) and (h) The steps taken by the Government to boost sugar production in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Boost Sugar Production

(i) Early crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production achieved during period 1-10-1993 to 15-11-1993.

(ii) Mid-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 80%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the additional/ incremental production to be achieved during the period 1-1-1994 to 30-4-1994 over the production during the same period in 1992-93 seson.

(iii) Late-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against

the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production to be achieved during the period 1-5-1994 to 31-7-1994.

(iv) Incentives have also been announced in the form of higher free sale quota at 100%, as against the normal entitlement of 60% to sugar mills for the additional/incremental production to be achieved during the period 1-8-1994 to 30-9-1994 over the corresponding period of last season.

(v) Finance Ministry/Reserve Bank of India have been requested to provide need based credit to the sugar industry during 1993-94 season.

(vi) State Government have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.

(vii) The loan component for grant of Sugar Development Fund assistances for KT Weirs and Lift irrigation schemes has been enhanced from 66.6% to 90% of the project cost.

(viii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane for 1993-94 season has been announced at Rs. 34.50 per quintal linked to a basis recovery of 8.5%, as against Rs. 31/- per quintal for 1992-93 season. An advance announcement of SMP for 1994-95 season has also been made at Rs. 37/- per quintal linked to a basis recovery of 8.5%.

(ix) The incentive scheme for new sugar factories expansion projects has been suitably revised.

(x) State Governments have been requested to consider various measures to contain diversion of cane to Gur and Khandasari Units.

(xi) Government have granted letters of intent/licences for establishment of 74 new sugar factories and for expansion in 17 existing sugar factories involving an annual sugar production capacity of 30.33 lakh tonnes.

State contribution to the Central Pool for Buffer Stock

572. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States contribute to the Central pool for building buffer stocks of rice, wheat, sugar and other essentials commodities;

(b) what was the contribution of these States during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and upto June, 1994;

(c) the names of the items contributed by the State of Gujarat to the Central pool in these years; and

(d) whether it is mandatory or obligatory for the States to contribute the surplus grains in the Central pool ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (d) Wheat, paddy and coarse-grains are procured by Food Corporation of India in collaboration with State Governments and their procuring agencies for Central pool under price support scheme, which is totally voluntary. As regards levy rice, it is collected under a statutory levy imposed on rice millers/traders.

Levy sugar is procured by the Government at a specified percentage of the total production of each sugar factory (except such factories covered under the various incentive schemes) for distribution through the PDS.

(b) and (c) A statement giving requisite information is attached. (*See* below). Gujarat does not contribute rice to Central Pool.